

## Message Text

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51 70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 NEA-11 ARA-16

INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /197 W

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O R 011907Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6385

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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CORRECTED COPY - PARA ONE LINES 13 THRU END OF PARA.

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

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SUBJECT: ENERGY: COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON

ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 618; B) EC BRUSSELS 515; C) STATE 21413

1. ON FEBRUARY 1, THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TERMINATED THEIR DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON THE POSITION THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS MADE SOME HEADWAY BUT THERE REMAIN DIVERGENCES AND THE EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) ON FEBRUARY '5 WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. THE GERMAN PERM REP, AS CHAIRMAN, CONCLUDED NEVERTHELESS THAT SUFFICIENT CONSENSUS HAD DEVELOPED ON MOST OF THE POINTS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS SO THAT HE, TOGETHER WITH THE EC COMMISSION, CAN NOW REDRAFT THE PAPER FOR THE MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION. WE ARE TOLD THE REDRAFT WILL HIGHLIGHT THE POINTS OF CONSENSUS AND STATE THAT THE PERM REPS WERE ABLE TO AGREE ON THE ESSENCE OF THE COMMISSION'S PAPER (REFTEL B). COMMUNITY SOURCES STRESS THAT THE PERMREP DISCUSSION DOES NOT BIND THE FRENCH MINISTER OR OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PERM REPS WERE APPARENTLY ABLE TO AGREE WITHD THE MAIN LINES OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS, THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THESE PROPOSALS AND OF US VIEWS ON THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WERE DIFFICULT. FRANCE, SUPPORTED WE UNDERSTAND TO SOME EXTENT BY THE BELGIANS, ARGUED THAT THE US VIEWS ON THE AGENDA AND SCENARIO CONSTITUTED A SHIFT IN THE CHARACTER OF THE CONFERENCE FROM A LARGELY PROCEDURAL MEETING TO ONE OF SUBSTANCE. THE BRITISH AND DUTCH, AMONG OTHERS, OPPOSED THESE CRITICISMS AND SUPPORTED THE US VIEW THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD SEEK A SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOME.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE US VIEWS ON THE AGENDA AND SCENARIO, THE PERM REP DISCUSSION, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, REVEALED THAT THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTIES WERE OVER PARTICIPATION OF FINANCE MINISTERS (THE PROPOSAL THAT THEY ATTEND WAS MADE TOO LATE IN THE VIEW OF MANY) AND THE QUESTION OF HOW THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE HANDLED. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION, THERE WAS SPECIAL CONCERN ABOUT HOW TO DEPICT PUBLICLY ANY WASHINGTON DISCUSSION BEARING ON THE LDCE (CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS).

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WHILE THE PERM REPS ANTICIPATED THERE WOULD BE WORKING GROUPS AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, THEY WERE SURPRISED AT THE SUGGESTION THE GROUPS SHOULD BE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. SOME DELEGATIONS ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE SUBSTANTIVE DEPTH OF THE AGENDA ENVISAGED BY THE US. OTHERS, HOWEVER, WERE MORE RELAXED RECOGNIZING THAT ALL THE TOPICS IN QUESTION WERE ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

4. COMMENT. IN THE COURSE OF FEBRUARY 1, WE HAVE CONVEYED  
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GUIDANCE IN REFTEL C TO KEY COMMUNITY  
OFFICIALS. GREENWALD

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## Message Attributes

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